

Unfaithful People and God's Grace

God called the prophet Hosea to bring a message to his people, Israel. He wanted them to know they had strayed from their relationship with him; their pride and arrogance in following other gods were the causes of all their troubles. God famously instructed Hosea to marry an unfaithful woman and used his marriage to Gomer as a symbol of all that was wrong with Israel in their relationship with God. Yet, though his judgment was harsh, God offered Israel hope and restoration. Studying the prophetic relationship of Hosea and Gomer invites us as his people today into an honest reflection on our own relationship with God and our need for his grace.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you know about the prophet Hosea?
- How would you feel if credit for your good work was given to someone else?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Unfaithful People and God's Grace](#)

READ [Hosea 1-3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discussed the three names God instructed Hosea to name the children he would have with Gomer and their meanings: Jezreel for the massacre of Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah meaning “not loved,” and Lo-Ammi meaning “not my people.” Which name did you find the most jarring? Why?
- In segment 2, Scott and Darrell discussed how Israel insulted God by following other gods and giving credit for his care and gifts to these false gods. How are Christians in our culture today at risk of committing “spiritual adultery” like Israel did? In what ways might we be insulting God?
- Like he instructed Hosea to restore Gomer, God, in his grace, restores his people. What does it mean to you that, despite the pain and heartbreak our straying inflicts on God, he still desires to purify our hearts and restore us into a right relationship with him?
- How does the prophetic marriage God called Hosea to have with Gomer help you better understand God’s relationship with his people?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Exodus 6:6-8](#), [Revelation 21:1-4](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Deuteronomy 8](#), [1 Peter 2:9-10](#)

CONCLUSION

Through the prophet Hosea, God used the symbol of marriage to an unfaithful wife to show Israel all that they had done wrong in their relationship with him. God's instruction to Hosea to marry Gomer, a known promiscuous woman, pronounced a searing judgement on Israel, exposing all the ways the people of God had insulted, betrayed, and broken covenant with him. But then, God also instructed Hosea to restore Gomer, giving hope and promise that he, too, would restore his people. This prophetic message from the past serves as a warning and invitation to God's people today. As Darrell said at the end of the episode, "We have to be honest about the fact that we are susceptible to being drawn away by all the things that tempt our hearts...we need the Holy Spirit to redirect us; we need the Holy Spirit to reorient us and realign us with the things of God."

Spend some intentional time in reflection and prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to expose any unfaithfulness within you so that God, in his grace, can purify your heart and restore you to a right relationship with him.

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